

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
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L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0090

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD EPAP CU PO

SUBJECT: CUBAN 1978 ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH POLAND

1. ADOLF JUZWIN, POLISH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, AND ZBIGNIEW MAZURKIEWICZ, POLISH ECONOMIC ATTACHE, CALLED ON USINT OFFICER, (GLASSMAN) JANUARY 10. POLES STATED THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY SIGNED THEIR 1978 COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WITH CUBANS, AS HAVE ALL OTHER COMMUNIST STATES WITH EXCEPTION OF USSR, CHINA, AND ROMANIA.

2. POLES SAID THAT ALL EE'S HAVE INCREASED THEIR VOLUME OF COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE WITH CUBANS FOR 1978 WHICH THEY SAID REPRESENTED, IN ESSENCE, "INCREASE IN FOREIGN AID" TO CUBA SINCE CUBAN SUGAR IS NOT PARTICULARLY DESIRED COMMODITY IN EASTERN EUROPE. THEY SAID THAT STANDARD PRICE FOR CUBAN SUGAR THIS YEAR (AND APPARENTLY LAST TWO YEARS AS WELL) IN COMECON EASTERN EUROPE (OUTSIDE USSR) IS 325 RUBLES PER TON. (COMMENT: THIS REPRESENTS ABOUT TWO-AND-ONE-HALF TIMES FREE MARKET PRICE. DEPUTY SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATIVE HAS TOLD US THAT PRICE PAID BY SOVIETS FOR CUBAN SUGAR, PRESUMABLY IN 1976 OR 1977, WAS ABOUT 506 RUBLES PER TON.)

3. POLES SAID THAT 1978 TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CUBANS ENVISAGES
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TRADE VOLUME OF 48 MILLION RUBLES. (COMMENT: USG REFERENCE MATERIAL HERE INDICATES THAT 1976 CUBAN-POLISH TRADE TOTALED SOME 25 MILLION DOLLARS.) POLES HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO BUY 45 THOUSAND TONS OF CUBAN SUGAR IN 1978 WHICH, THEY SAID, REPRESENTED FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES "GIFT" TO CUBANS, EVEN THOUGH POLISH BEET CROP, BECAUSE OF UNFORTUNATE WEATHER CONDITIONS, HAD NOT MEASURED UP TO EXPECTATIONS.

4. IN INTERESTING ASIDE, POLES STATED THAT, HAD RECENT FIDEL CASTRO SPEECH ANNOUNCING FREEZE ON CUBAN POPULAR CONSUMPTION LEVELS FOR NEXT FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS BEEN DELIVERED IN POLAND, "UNDOUBTEDLY A REVOLUTION WOULD HAVE OCCURRED". POLES EXPRESSED WONDERMENT AT EXTRAORDINARILY PASSIVE CHARACTER OF CUBAN POPULATION. (COMMENT: CASTRO'S REMARKS ON CONSUMPTION MAY HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED, IN PART, TO USSR/EE AS MEANS OF PRESSURE TO JUSTIFY HIGHER LEVEL OF SUBSIDIZATION FOR CUBAN ECONOMY.)
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